

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 PA-02 USIE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/INS - MR. KUX :NEA/PAB MR LANDE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 063097

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 21

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 21, 1977:

SPOKESMAN: GOOD AFTERNOON. AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE ARE COPIES OF A STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS AT 10 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. THE SUBJECT OF HIS STATEMENT IS AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL HOUSING IN CAIRO.

AT 2 O'CLOCK, WE WILL HAVE THE STATEMENT BY ALFRED WHITE, AID DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE NEAR EAST, BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST; SUBJECT, UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC AND BAHRAIN.

Q. BEFORE YOU GO ON, WHY DO WE NEED ADDITIONAL HOUSING IN CAIRO?

A. LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT MR. THOMAS SAYS.

Q. ARE WE INCREASING THE STAFF, OR WHAT?

A. I HAVE THE STATEMENT HERE: "UTILIZE EXCESS FOREIGN CURRENCY TO ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY IN CAIRO TO HOUSE U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL. SEVENTY-TWO HOUSING UNITS ARE PLANNED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THIRTY-SIX UNITS FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USIA. AMOUNT REQUESTED WILL BE USED TO ACQUIRE THREE SITES, DEVELOP PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS."

Q. I THINK THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

A. THERE IS AN INCREASED AID PRESENCE THERE, YOU KNOW, AS A RESULT OF PROGRAMS IN FY '77 AND '78.

Q. HOW ABOUT BREZHNEV? ANY REPLY TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S RATHER LONG SPEECH. WE ARE STUDYING IT, AND, FOR THE MOMENT, WE DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT TO MAKE ON IT.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT TO HAVE COMMENT ON IT LATER?

A. I WOULDN'T EXPECT TO HAVE ANY COMMENT THIS AFTERNOON, ACTUALLY. IT IS A RATHER LONG SPEECH.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY BE SEEING AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN THIS WEEK BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW?
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A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS ARE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK WITH REGARD TO APPOINTMENTS.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK?

A. YES, I WILL. I WILL CHECK ON THAT.

Q. DO WE FEEL IN ANY WAY THAT THIS IS AN INTERFERENCE WITH OUR INTERNAL RIGHT OF OUR PRESIDENT TO SPEAK OUT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. I DON'T THINK WE WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS THAT, AT ALL.

Q. YOU DON'T FEEL THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS THAT.

Q. HOW ABOUT COMMENT ON WHAT THE PLO DID, OR DIDN'T DO?

A. WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS THAT THE PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE OR THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE BASED.

NOW, THE DECISIONS OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS IN CAIRO HAVE NOT ALTERED THIS SITUATION, AND, IN OUR VIEW, THEREFORE, DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THAT IS OUR REACTION.

Q. DO YOU REGRET IT?

A. I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THE DEVELOPMENT ANY FURTHER. WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS, AND, AS YOU KNOW, IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS
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WE WILL BE MEETING WITH KEY ARAB LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON FINDING A SOLUTION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE BREZHNEV STATEMENT REGARDING -- THE WHOLE THING?

A. WELL, THAT WAS THE FIRST QUESTION ASKED.

Q. OH. I AM SORRY.

A. IT IS A LONG SPEECH. IT HAS A LOT IN IT. WE HAVE THE SPEECH AND IT IS BEING STUDIED. SO, MY COMMENT WHETHER WITH REGARD TO SALT OR MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE THE SAME.

Q. WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING ON THIS?

A. I CAN'T PREDICT WHEN WE ARE GOING TO COMMENT ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REMARKS.

Q. WITH RELATION TO THE BREZHNEV SPEECH AND THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL FLOW FROM THIS, DOES THE AGENDA FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW INCLUDE A DISCUSSION AS TO POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ON WHAT A SETTLEMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE, APART FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF AN AGREEMENT?

A. I DON'T THINK I AM IN A POSITION TO GO INTO DETAILS OF THE AGENDA FOR MOSCOW. A NUMBER OF MATTERS ARE GOING TO BE DISCUSSED.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW?

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A. I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WILL BEFORE MOSCOW.

Q. IF HE DOESN'T DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET SOMEBODY DOWN HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE TRIP?

A. I WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO ARRANGE THAT.

Q. IF YOU DO TRY TO GET SOMEBODY DOWN HERE, WILL YOU ASK HIM ALSO TO BE WELL BRIEFED ON WHAT THE U.S. POSITION WILL BE WHEN THE RUSSIANS BRING UP THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE QUESTION OF EMIGRATION, ETC.?

A. I WILL GET YOU THE BEST BRIEFED PERSON AROUND.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON MAY BE THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW AND MARVIN KALB MAY BE THE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER OR DON'T YOU FIGURE?

A. ALL MY FEELINGS ARE GOOD. I THINK ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON IMPORTANT AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS LIKE THAT WOULD COME OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. I THOUGHT MAYBE THE STATE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO ABOUT IT. I MEAN, WELL, GOVERNOR SCRANTON WAS IN TO SEE MR. VANCE ON -- MR. AND MRS. SCRANTON WERE IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY.

A. FRIDAY, RIGHT.

Q. DID THEY TALK ABOUT THIS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.
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Q. YOU DON'T KNOW.

Q. IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THERE WAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY. WHO DECIDED NOT TO COMMENT ON IT?

A. THE DEPARTMENT ISN'T -- YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE INDIAN ELECTIONS.

Q. NO. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THEY LIFTED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, NOT THE ELECTION. PRESUMABLY ONE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER. I MEAN THERE IS NO NECESSARY CONNECTION. BUT, WHO DECIDED NOT TO COMMENT. I MEAN THERE HAS BEEN A PATTERN OF CONSISTENT COMMENT IN RECENT WEEKS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE IS A LID ON IT.

A. GENERALLY WE DON'T COMMENT ON THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE LIFTING? I MEAN IS THE ADMINISTRATION FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THIS, NO OPINION, UNFAVORABLY DISPOSED?

A. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO --

Q. I AM NOT ASKING YOU ABOUT THE ELECTIONS. I AM ASKING ABOUT THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

A. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO OFFER ANY COMMENT ON THAT. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO OFFER ANY COMMENT ON IT AT ALL.

Q. DIDN'T THE PRESIDENT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UN SAY THAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD SPEAK OUT ON SUCH SUBJECTS? I DON'T UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDERSTAND. I THINK PETER HAS AN AWFULLY GOOD QUESTION.

WHY IS IT THAT WHEN THIS SPECTACULAR AND TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE AND THIS EMERGENCY CENSORSHIP AND SO FORTH IS LIFTED IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST COUNTRIES, THAT YOU HAVE NO COMMENT AND WILL GIVE NO COMMENT?

I AM PERPLEXED AS IS PETER AND I THINK A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE.

A. WELL, I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY COMMENT.

Q. I SEE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 21:

MR. POWELL: THE ADMINISTRATION, OF COURSE, IS AWARE OF

THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S STATEMENT. IT IS A VERY LONG STATEMENT. IT COVERS A NUMBER OF TOPICS. IT IS BEING STUDIED NOW. I HAVE NO COMMENT FOR YOU ON IT.

Q. JODY, THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID.

Q. LET HIM GO. LET HIM FINISH THE DAMNED ANSWER BEFORE YOU JUMP IN.

MR. POWELL: I MIGHT SAY IN THAT GENERAL AREA THAT OUR PREPARATIONS FOR SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW ARE PROCEEDING, THAT FROM ALL INDICATIONS THAT WE HAVE BOTH PARTIES CONSIDER THIS TRIP AND HIS DISCUSSIONS THERE TO BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD RELIEVING THE BURDEN OF THE ARMS RACE ON THE CITIZENS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SOVIET UNION, AND ON REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

Q. IS THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE AGENDA AND WHAT POSITION IS THE UNITED STATES TAKING WITH RESPECT TO MR. BREZHNEV'S POSITION ON A SETTLEMENT?

MR. POWELL: I THINK I SAID I DIDN'T HAVE ANY COMMENT FOR YOU.

Q. ALL RIGHT, SIR. COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER OR NOT IT IS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE BREZHNEV MEETING?

Q. WHAT WAS THE LAST PART ABOUT REMOVING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR -- SOMETHING?

MR. POWELL: OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD OR NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON INDIA?

Q. WAIT A MINUTE; IS THAT ON THE AGENDA?

MR. POWELL: THE MIDDLE EAST, I DON'T KNOW -- YES, IT WILL BE ON THE AGENDA.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE PLO --

Q. WHAT ABOUT IT?

Q. -- AND THEIR STATEMENT ABOUT NOT CHANGING ITS COVENANTS IN ANY WAY?

MR. POWELL: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DEALT DIRECTLY WITH THAT. I WILL BE GLAD TO READ FOR YOU WHAT STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID ON THAT THIS MORNING, WHICH AMOUNTS TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS THAT THE PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE OR THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BASED; THAT THE DECISION OF THE DALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND CAIRO HAVE NOT ALTERED THIS SITUATION, AND THEREFORE, IN OUR VIEW, DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN IN LIGHT OF THIS STATEMENT AND YOUR OWN RECITATION OF IT THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED STATES IN ANY WAY OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR GETTING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE STARTED SO FAR AS THE PLO IS CONCERNED?

MR. POWELL: I DON'T THINK WE EVER ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO CONSIDERATIONS WITH REGARD TO ANY SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION, OR TO ANY DEGREE OF SPECIFICS ABOUT THAT MATTER.

IF YOUR QUESTION IS, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, THE ANSWER IS NO.

Q. NO, THE QUESTION IS -- OF COURSE WE ARE INTERESTED IN A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE -- WHETHER OR NOT THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, THE MOVEMENT FOR A CONFERENCE WILL PROCEED ALONG THE PATH OF DEALING ONLY WITH GOVERNMENTS AND NOT WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY BE SET UP THAT WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

MR. POWELL: LET ME SAY THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY WAY OF CHARACTERIZING IT OR OF PREDICTING TO YOU WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS WILL BE DOWN THE ROAD.

Q. JODY, WITHIN THE LAST 24 HOURS THERE WAS A UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY, SPECIFICALLY, THE EMERGENCY DECREE WHICH HAS EXISTED IN INDIA FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN LIFTED. HAS THE ADMINISTRATION ANY COMMENT OR FEELING ON IT?

MR. POWELL: CERTAINLY, OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES WORLDWIDE IS WELL KNOWN. THE ACTION BY MRS. GANDHI IN LIFTING THOSE RESTRICTIONS IS TO BE WELCOMED.

Q. IT WASN'T MRS. GANDHI.

Q. IT WAS BY THE PRESIDENT.

MR. POWELL: OKAY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION ON THE ELECTION ITSELF?

MR. POWELL: EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY, TO FREELY CHOOSE THEIR LEADERSHIP IS SIMPLY CERTAINLY SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION AND IS NOTEWORTHY, PERHAPS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DID NOT HAVE THAT RIGHT.

Q. HAS HE SENT ANY TELEGRAMS TO MRS. GANDHI?

MR. POWELL: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY COMMUNICATIONS.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT WANT THIS REACTION TO THIS VERY NOTABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA TO BE ISSUED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ONLY OR FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT? DID THE PRESIDENT WANT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SAY "NO COMMENT?"

MR. POWELL: I DON'T KNOW.
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Q. IS IT THAT SENSITIVE THAT WE ARE GLAD THAT THE CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED TO -- BECAUSE YOU SEE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPEATEDLY REFUSED ANY COMMENT ON THIS WHICH IS ASTOUNDING.

I JUST WONDERED, DOES THE PRESIDENT WANT THESE THINGS CONFINED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

MR. POWELL: I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT --

Q. THEY DID THIS MORNING. THEY REFUSED, I THINK IT WAS THREE TIMES. WE TRIED TO GET THEM TO HAVE SOME COMMENT ON THIS AND THEY REFUSED.

MR. POWELL: PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE THEIR BRIEFING TOOK PLACE EARLIER THAN MINE.

Q. YOUR COMMENT REFERRED TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE AND THAT SORT OF THING. DOESN'T THE PRESIDENT HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT A VICTORY, DID HE HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE VICTORY RESULTS?

MR. POWELL: I DON'T THINK IT IS NORMALLY THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO COMMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

Q. NOT WHEN THEY COINCIDE WITH THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE UNITED STATES?

MR. POWELL: I AM NOT AWARE -- I JUST FALL BACK ON MY PREVIOUS STATEMENT.

Q. WHAT IS THE PROSPECT FOR IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, THAT THIS GOVERNMENT THINKS THE ELECTION
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RESULTS WOULD HAVE?

MR. POWELL: THE ELECTION THERE, AS A MATTER OF FACT, IS NOT EVEN OVER YET.

VANCE

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS JESTEWART

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:KUX

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INFO RUSBAY/AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY 0000

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

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FOL RPT STATE 063097 DATED 22 MAR 77 ACTION AMMAN, BEIRUT,
CAIRO, DAMASCUS, ISLAMABAD, JERUSALEM, MOSCOW, TEL AVIV,
NEW DELHI, MANAMA, RABAT, SANA, TEHRAN, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, SINAI,
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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 21

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FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS. THE SUBJECT OF HIS STATEMENT IS AUTHORIZA-
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AT 2 O'CLOCK, WE WILL HAVE THE STATEMENT BY ALFRED WHITE,

AID DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE NEAR EAST,
BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
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Q. BEFORE YOU GO ON, WHY DO WE NEED ADDITIONAL HOUSING
IN CAIRO?

A. LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT MR. THOMAS SAYS.

Q. ARE WE INCREASING THE STAFF, OR WHAT?

A. I HAVE THE STATEMENT HERE: "UTILIZE EXCESS FOREIGN
CURRENCY TO ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY IN CAIRO TO HOUSE
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SITES, DEVELOP PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS."

Q. I THINK THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

A. THERE IS AN INCREASED AID PRESENCE THERE, YOU KNOW,
AS A RESULT OF PROGRAMS IN FY '77 AND '78.

Q. HOW ABOUT BREZHNEV? ANY REPLY TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S RATHER LONG
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SPEECH. WE ARE STUDYING IT, AND, FOR THE MOMENT, WE
DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT TO MAKE ON IT.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT TO HAVE COMMENT ON IT LATER?

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ACTUALLY. IT IS A RATHER LONG SPEECH.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY BE SEEING AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN THIS
WEEK BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS ARE FOR THE REMAINDER OF
THE WEEK WITH REGARD TO APPOINTMENTS.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK?

A. YES, I WILL. I WILL CHECK ON THAT.

Q. DO WE FEEL IN ANY WAY THAT THIS IS AN INTERFERENCE
WITH OUR INTERNAL RIGHT OF OUR PRESIDENT TO SPEAK OUT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. I DON'T THINK WE WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS THAT, AT ALL.

Q. YOU DON'T FEEL THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS THAT.

Q. HOW ABOUT COMMENT ON WHAT THE PLO DID, OR DIDN'T DO?

A. WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS THAT THE PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE OR THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE BASED.

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Q. DO YOU REGRET IT?

A. I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THE DEVELOPMENT ANY FURTHER. WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS, AND, AS YOU KNOW, IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS WE WILL BE MEETING WITH KEY ARAB LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON FINDING A SOLUTION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE BREZHNEV STATEMENT REGARDING -- THE WHOLE THING?

A. WELL, THAT WAS THE FIRST QUESTION ASKED.

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A. IT IS A LONG SPEECH. IT HAS A LOT IN IT. WE HAVE THE SPEECH AND IT IS BEING STUDIED. SO, MY COMMENT WHETHER WITH REGARD TO SALT OR MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE THE SAME.

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SUBSTANCE OF AN AGREEMENT?

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THE AGENDA FOR MOSCOW. A NUMBER OF MATTERS ARE GOING TO
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Q. IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE
BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WILL BEFORE MOSCOW.

Q. IF HE DOESN'T DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET SOMEBODY
DOWN HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE TRIP?

A. I WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO ARRANGE THAT.

Q. IF YOU DO TRY TO GET SOMEBODY DOWN HERE, WILL YOU
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SOMETHING TO DO ABOUT IT. I MEAN, WELL, GOVERNOR
SCRANTON WAS IN TO SEE MR. VANCE ON -- MR. AND MRS.
SCRANTON WERE IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY.

A. FRIDAY, RIGHT.

Q. DID THEY TALK ABOUT THIS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW.

Q. IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THERE WAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY. WHO DECIDED NOT TO COMMENT ON IT?

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Q. NO. AM TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THEY LIFTED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, NOT THE ELECTION. PRESUMABLY ONE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER. I MEAN THERE IS NO NECESSARY CONNECTION. BUT, WHO DECIDED NOT TO COMMENT. I MEAN THERE HAS BEEN A PATTERN OF CONSISTENT COMMENT IN RECENT WEEKS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE IS A LID ON IT.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
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Film Number: D770098-0197
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703111/baaaevmh.tel
Line Count: 740
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4a401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
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SAS ID: 2965070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 21
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, XX
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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